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# The Empty Notebook and Denial

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### *The Empty Notebook and Denial*

The empty notebook is  
terrified of coffee rings,  
which remind it of mortality.  
Likewise the smell of burnt toast,  
the sound of anything being torn.  
The empty notebook obsesses  
over rocks, scissors, fire.  
The empty notebook practices  
denial, seeks relative safety in  
the shelf's monastic life. It strips  
down to essentials: coffee cup,  
pencil, cough drop. It yearns  
to slam itself open to tango, samba  
paso doble, cha-cha-cha. When  
a baritone sax plays salsa dura,  
it writhes and breaks its bindings.